

THE BORRERO HOUSE (McCormick Prize House)
724 Canyon Road,
Santa Fe, Santa Fe County, New Mexico

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Southwest District

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
John Gaw Meem, District Officer,
Camino del Monte Sol, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

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724 Canyon Road,
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Owner: Miss Agnes Sims, Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania.

Date of Erection: Circa 1842.

Architect: None.

Builder: Rafael Borrego.

Present Condition: Fair; recently remodeled on interior and exterior.

Number of stories: One.

Materials of Construction: Foundation, field stone laid up in adobe mortar; floors, pine, brick and cement (originally pine); exterior walls, adobe brick, adobe mortar; interior walls, adobe brick, adobe mortar; frame partitions added recently; interior finish, walls, lime plaster, ceilings, wood; roof, composition recently laid over original earth roof.

Other Existing Records: None available.

Additional Data: The building was repaired and remodeled about 1930. New pine floors were laid in all rooms except B, D, and G; that in room B being common brick, in room D concrete slab, and in room G the original pine floor remains. Plumbing was installed. New frame partitions added in rooms D, E, and F. New frame closet added in room B. Fireplaces were added in rooms A, B, E and F. A porch (Portal) was built at the west end of the small court (Placita). The wall enclosing the placita was added. Several new windows and doors were installed, replacing old ones and some being added. The counter in room C was constructed to form a modern kitchen. New plaster was applied to both interior and exterior. A composition roof was laid over the original adobe soil roof. The repairing and remodeling was done by Mrs. Kate Chapman of Santa Fe, who states that, with the exception of the new frame partitions, new fireplaces, plumbing, brick and cement floors, porch, placita and placita wall, the building is essentially the same as it was prior to the remodeling.

The house as originally built consisted of rooms B, C, D, E, F and G. The rooms now comprising E and F were, at that time, one large room used as the salon; room D was the kitchen and B, C and G were bedrooms. The building was a typical example of the residences built in Santa Fe at that time by the native families. It had pine floors, adobe walls, adobe plaster on the interior and exterior; the interior being finished with a thin coat of yaso, a whitewash of hand crushed native gypsum applied with lamb's wool pads. The roof was six to ten inches of adobe soil placed and tamped over pine ceiling boards laid across native pine logs (vigas). Most of the lumber, the windows, doors and frames were freighted in over the Santa Fe Trail by ox team from Missouri. The connecting door to room G was closed up and plastered over at the time room A and the portal along the street front were added. This occurred about 1860.

The square and round columns along the west walls of room C and G were installed about 1870. They support a beam, at the junction of the wall and ceiling, which supports the roof logs. These were installed to eliminate the necessity of removing the entire roof construction over these rooms, when leaks in the roof developed, causing the vigas to rot at these points. This method of repair to rotted ends of vigas, adjacent to walls, is frequently practiced by the native families of Santa Fe and vicinity.

The corner fireplaces in rooms C and D are original. All the others have been constructed at the time of the latest remodeling about 1930. The mantel of the fireplace in room A was salvaged from one of the officers' buildings of old Fort Marcy at Santa Fe which was demolished about that time.

There is nothing historic about the building so far as is known. The date of erection is based on statements of Senor Jose F. Gonzales, grandson of Rafael Borrego, who says his mother, a daughter of the builder, was told by her father that he had lived in the house for about four years when the American soldiers, under General Kearney, came to Santa Fe in 1846.

The house is now used as rental property by Miss Sims, the present owner.

The foregoing facts were obtained verbally from the following sources.

Jose F. Gonzales, 724 $\frac{1}{2}$ Canyon Road, Santa Fe, New Mexico;
Seferino Alarid, 710 Canyon Road, Santa Fe, New Mexico;
Kate M. Chapman, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Trent Thomas

Trent Thomas,
Architect in Charge,
HABS, Southwest Unit.

Approved

Oct 18

1940.

John Gaw Meem

John Gaw Meem,
District Officer.

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